



October 14, 2015

Dear Chairman Callton & Members of the Health Policy Committee:

At Meijer, we strive to provide our pharmacy customers with convenience, value and excellent health care services. In addition to our drive-thru pickup, on-site clinical services and immunization offerings, the Meijer free prescription program has distributed nearly 29 million generic medications and vitamins saving our customers over \$400 million. Meijer supports HB 4437 because of its alignment with our commitment to convenient, affordable prescription access that promotes family health.

42 U.S.C. § 262 sets forth two standards for licensure of biological products that are based on a reference (i.e., "brand name") biological product. The lower of the two standards is "biosimilar", which means that the biological product is "highly similar" to the referenced product, and that there are "no clinically meaningful differences" in "safety, purity, and potency".

The higher standard is "interchangeable", which means that, in addition to satisfying the standard of biosimilar, the biological product "can be expected to produce the same clinical result as the reference product in any given patient" and that "the risk in terms of safety or diminished efficacy of alternating or switching between use of the biological product and the reference product is not greater than the risk of using the reference product without such alternation or switch." Importantly, section 262 also states that an interchangeable biological product may be substituted for the reference product "without the intervention of the health care provider who prescribed the reference product".

HB 4437 reflects three important principles: (1) pharmacies cannot substitute non-interchangeable biosimilar products without the prescriber's approval; (2) prescribers should have an easy means to prevent substitution of interchangeable biological products; and (3) if prescribers choose not to prevent substitution of interchangeable biological products, pharmacies should not be required to notify prescribers that an interchangeable biological product was dispensed.

The provisions in HB 4437 ensure that interchangeable biological products are substituted safely and responsibly, while saving our customers' time and money. At Meijer pharmacies, promoting family health is our top priority, and HB 4437 is a positive step in that direction.

Please let us know if we can be of additional assistance.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Vandervoort', written over a horizontal line.

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